



# SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Developing Our Workforce: New Legislation Offers Grants for Technical Education

**Eau Claire** – Governor Scott Walker signed two bills into law today aimed at increasing the number of students who graduate ready to enter the workforce. Both bills are part of a larger effort to improve access to quality worker training in the state.

“Many employers are still facing a shortage of skilled labor, while too many of our neighbors are still unemployed or underemployed,” Governor Walker said. “Our emphasis on workforce development looks to find a solution to both situations. I thank Senator Gudex, Representative Petryk, and Representative Krug for their leadership on these important bills.”

**Senate Bill 331** – provides incentive grants to school districts that promote career and technical education programs. On an annual basis, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will work with the Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Technical College System to identify industry sectors that are facing workforce shortages including shortages of adequately trained, entry-level workers.

For every pupil that completes an approved, industry-recognized certification program, the DPI will award grants of \$1,000 per pupil to school districts. Grants will be available beginning in the 2014–15 school year.

Senate Bill 331 was authored by Senator Richard Gudex (R-Fond du Lac) and Representative Warren Petryk (R-Eleva). The bill unanimously passed both the Senate and the Assembly and is Act 59.

**Senate Bill 334** – awards scholarships in conjunction with the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to students of excellence that are enrolled fulltime at a technical college. Between one and six scholarships will be available at each school, depending on the number of students. HEAB will fund \$1,125 of the scholarship with a matching contribution from the technical college.

Senate Bill 334 was authored by Senator Richard Gudex (R-Fond du Lac) and Representative Scott Krug (R-Town of Rome). The bill unanimously passed the Senate and passed the Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support. It is Act 60.

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